

CLAIMS

1. A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
 - a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation;
 - b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
 - c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.
2. A method of claim 1 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.
3. A method of claim 1 further comprising:
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.
4. A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.
5. A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.
6. A method of claim 1 wherein said cooling media is water.
7. A method of claim 1 wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.
8. A method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

9. A method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined amount of cooling media is a quantity sufficient for the BTU value of the cooling media, air and coal is 60% or less of BTU value of the air and coal.

10. A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation, said oxidizing gas being injected at a pressure exceeding formation pressure of said coal formation;
b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.

11. A method of claim 10 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

12. A method of claim 10 further comprising:
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.

13. A method of claim 12 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

14. A method of claim 10 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

15. A method of claim 10 wherein the predetermined amount of cooling media is a quantity sufficient for the BTU value of the cooling media, air and coal is 60% or less of BTU value of the air and coal.

16. A method of claim 10 wherein said oxidizing gas is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

17. A method of claim 15 wherein said oxidizing gas is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

18. A method for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
- b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
- c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
- d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.

19. A method of claim 18 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

20. A method of claim 18 further comprising:
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.

21. A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.

22. A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.

23. A method of claim 18 wherein said cooling media is water.

24. A method of claim 18 wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.

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25. A method of claim 18 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

26. A method of claim 18 wherein said oxidizing gas is injected at a pressure substantially equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.